Introduction

The thirty-first special session of the Trade and Development Board was held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva on 5 April 2017. In the course of the session, the Board held one plenary meeting.

I. Action by the Trade and Development Board

A. Substantive topics for the forthcoming sessions of the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission and the Trade and Development Commission

(Agenda item 4)

1. The Trade and Development Board approved the proposed substantive topics for the ninth sessions of the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission and the Trade and Development Commission.

2. Accordingly, the substantive topic for the ninth session of the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission is as follows:

- From decisions to actions: Investment and enterprise development as catalysts for accomplishing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

3. The Board also approved the provisional agenda for the ninth session of the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission, to be held on 20–24 November 2017 (see annex I).

4. The substantive topic for the ninth session of the Trade and Development Commission is as follows:

- From decisions to actions: Trade as a catalyst for accomplishing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

5. In addition, the Board approved the provisional agenda for the ninth session of the Trade and Development Commission, to be held on 27 November–1 December 2017 (see annex II).

B. Terms of reference for the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy and the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Finance for Development

(Agenda item 5)

6. The Trade and Development Board approved the terms of reference for the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy and for the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Finance for Development (see annex III and annex IV, respectively).

C. Topics for the first sessions of multi-year expert meetings

(Agenda item 6)

7. The Board approved the topics for the first sessions of the multi-year expert meetings under the mandate of the Nairobi Maafikiano (see annex V).

II. President's summary

Opening statement

8. In his opening statement, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD underscored that the consensus-based approach practised by member States in the lead up to the session reflected the strength of multilateralism at a time of many challenges and was in the spirit of the Nairobi Maafikiano. It also illustrated a firm commitment to realizing the aspirations of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Among the agreements reached by consensus were the terms of reference for the two new intergovernmental groups of experts and the provisional agenda of the annual session of the Trade and Development Board in September. He confirmed that the UNCTAD secretariat would offer all the support necessary to realize the expectations of member States as work on the Nairobi Maafikiano progressed. He also shared plans for a series of consultations at the level of heads of missions, for all regions, as a way to share the secretariat's insights on the emerging strategy on implementing the Nairobi Maafikiano and to gather the views of member States, through heads of missions and experts, on how best to realize the expectations created of the intergovernmental machinery.

9. One delegate emphasized the importance of the efforts needed to reinforce the intergovernmental machinery. He noted that almost one year had passed since the last ministerial conference and that there was still much work to be done to demonstrate that the substance of what was agreed then would be fulfilled. To that end, the experience of the new Secretary of the Board would help in finding solutions to enhance the intergovernmental machinery.

Closing statements

10. The representatives of most regional groups noted that there had been significant progress made at the thirty-first special session of the Board in moving forward on realizing the decisions taken in Nairobi. The consensus reached on the agendas, topics and revised calendar, and particularly on the terms of reference for the two new intergovernmental groups of experts, was an important step in the implementation of the Nairobi Maafikiano. Noting the positive spirit in which the session's agenda items had been approved, most regional groups reiterated the importance of full implementation of the Nairobi Maafikiano and underscored that the UNCTAD mandate was in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other international instruments. Many regional groups noted the importance of moving to phase II of implementation, namely the revitalization of the intergovernmental machinery of UNCTAD. The representatives of some regional groups recalled that, prior to starting on phase II, the reflection exercise of phase I required completion, namely the voluntary survey and circulation of the report of the President on the results of the survey.

11. The representative of one regional group emphasized the important effort that had been made to mainstream the special needs of landlocked developing countries into the work of UNCTAD and expressed the expectation of more substantive discussions in the intergovernmental machinery, particularly the Trade and Development Board, through improved reporting on activities and provision of analyses in all publications in support of their development. One delegate added that the multilateral commitment to realizing the Sustainable Development Goals was active and intense, which should be mirrored in efforts to implement the Nairobi Maafikiano. There should be synergy between Geneva and New York, as the issues were the same for the United Nations and UNCTAD, and adherence to the substance of development.

12. The President of the Board took note of all statements, which would be taken into consideration. In the following weeks, work on phase II would begin with a view to revitalizing the intergovernmental machinery and fulfilling the decisions taken in Nairobi. While some unfinished matters needed to be concluded, it was important to keep in mind the need for transparency in dealing with those matters and be concerned about the people for

whom the Board was working. Thus, the Board would move as quickly as possible, while taking into account the views of all.

III. Procedural and related matters

A. Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session
(Agenda item 1)

13. The Trade and Development Board adopted the provisional agenda, as contained in document TD/B(S-XXXI)/1 (see annex VI).

B. Agenda of the sixty-fifth executive session of the Trade and Development Board
(Agenda item 2)

14. The Board approved the provisional agenda for its sixty-fifth executive session, to be held on 27 June 2017 (see annex VII).

C. Agenda of the sixty-fourth session of the Trade and Development Board
(Agenda item 3)

15. Under the agenda item, the provisional agenda for the sixty-fourth session of the Trade and Development Board to be held in September 2017 was under consideration by the Board. The Board approved the provisional agenda (see annex VIII) on the understanding that: (a) the topic of the high-level segment would be reviewed and approved by the extended Bureau of the Board at a later date; (b) there remained space for the Board to clarify other matters under its consideration; and (c) the 2017 report on agenda item 10 would focus on small island developing States, while the 2018 report on the same item would focus on landlocked developing countries.

16. The representatives of several regional groups noted that items 3 and 4 of the provisional agenda should remain separate, as agreed at the meeting of the extended Bureau of the Board on the previous day. The representatives of some other regional groups underscored the agreement on consideration of an additional item on management issues that reflected a future vision of UNCTAD and some of its other work.

17. The Board agreed that the extended Bureau would be entrusted with the conclusion of the remaining work on the provisional agenda of the sixty-fourth session of the Board, taking into account the comments made.

D. Revised calendar of meetings
(Agenda item 7)

18. The Board also approved the revised calendar of meetings for the remainder of 2017.*

* The revised official calendar of meetings will be issued as document TD/B/INF.237/Rev.1.

E. Adoption of the report of the Trade and Development Board

(Agenda item 8)

As per past practice, the Trade and Development Board authorized the President to complete the report on its thirty-first special session after the conclusion of the meeting. The report would contain all decisions taken and the agendas and terms of reference approved by the Board during the session.

Annex I

Provisional agenda for the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission, ninth session

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
3. Reports of expert meetings
   (a) Report of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Investment, Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Productive Capacity-building and Sustainable Development
   (b) Report of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting on its thirty-first session
4. From decisions to actions: Investment and enterprise development as catalysts for accomplishing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
5. Progress report on promoting and strengthening synergies among the three pillars
6. Other business
7. Adoption of the report of the Commission to the Trade and Development Board

Annex II

Provisional agenda for the Trade and Development Commission, ninth session

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
3. Reports of expert meetings
   (a) Reports of the multi-year and single-year expert meetings:
      (i) Multi-year Expert Meeting on Transport, Trade Logistics and Trade Facilitation
      (ii) Multi-year Expert Meeting on Commodities and Development
      (iii) Multi-year Expert Meeting on Trade, Services and Development
      (iv) Multi-year Expert Meeting on Enhancing the Enabling Economic Environment at All Levels in Support of Inclusive and Sustainable Development, and the Promotion of Economic Integration and Cooperation
      (v) Expert Meeting on the Ways and Means of Improving the Implementation of Priority Areas Agreed in the Istanbul Programme of Action
   (b) Report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy
   (c) Reports of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection Law and Policy
4. From decisions to actions: Trade as a catalyst for accomplishing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
5. Progress report on promoting and strengthening synergies among the three pillars
6. Other business
7. Adoption of the report of the Commission to the Trade and Development Board

Annex III

Terms of reference for the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy

I. Background

1. As stated in subparagraphs 100 (r) and (s) of the Nairobi Maafikiano,[a] the Trade and Development Board will operationalize the creation of two new intergovernmental groups of experts, on e-commerce and the digital economy and on financing for development. The present terms of reference establish the modalities for the operationalization of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy.

II. Organizational considerations

2. **Composition**. The Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy will be composed of government representatives with relevant expertise. Specialized expertise from civil society, the private sector and academia will be invited, as appropriate, for consultative purposes, and will vary according to specific topics and themes. Member States may consider designating a focal point for continuous liaison with the Intergovernmental Group of Experts.

3. **Working modalities**. It is proposed that the Intergovernmental Group of Experts follow the standard procedures and methods of work for intergovernmental meetings at UNCTAD. At its first meeting, the Intergovernmental Group of Experts will decide on appropriate organizational and working modalities. In order to maximize the impact and participation of the group deliberations, arrangements shall be made for remote participation to complement the meeting.

4. **Frequency**. One plenary session per year.

5. **Length**. Not to exceed three days.

6. **Timing**. The first session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy should take place in the last quarter of 2017 and report to the Executive Session of the Trade and Development Board. Subsequent sessions should take place in the second quarter of each year, in conjunction with the UNCTAD E-commerce Week, and report to the annual session of the Trade and Development Board. Meetings should be convened back-to-back with other relevant meetings in order to create synergies for participating delegates.

7. **Outcomes**:

(a) Agreed policy recommendations drawn from the discussions of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy for the consideration of the Trade and Development Board;

(b) A report produced under the responsibility of the Chair of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts, to inform discussions at the Trade and Development Board;

(c) The Intergovernmental Group of Experts shall decide topics and guiding questions for subsequent sessions including the provisional agenda.

8. **Reporting**. Reports to the Trade and Development Board.

---

[a] TD/519/Add.2 and Corr.1.

9. **Lead division servicing the group of experts**. Division on Technology and Logistics, in coordination with other relevant divisions of UNCTAD, overseen by the Office of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Trade and Development Board.

10. **Documentation**. Documentation for each session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts will consist of a provisional agenda, issues notes (a maximum of one per substantive agenda item) and a report of the session. Issues notes will be produced before each annual session, outlining the key issues to be examined by the experts and responding to the guiding questions (see appendix).

11. **Anticipated funding needs to enable participation**. To ensure the effective participation of government representatives from developing countries, especially from the least developed countries, funds for their travel and per diem expenses would be important. If the Intergovernmental Group of Experts takes a decision to carry out intersessional activities, it may be necessary to seek additional voluntary/extrabudgetary resources.

III. Proposed policy focus

12. The policy focus of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy will be on maximizing the development gains from e-commerce and the digital economy, and addressing associated challenges, and thus strengthening its development dimension.

13. *Opportunities*. Opportunities that may arise for developing countries include reduced transaction costs, better access to customers domestically and abroad, participation in global value chains, enhanced productivity, entrepreneurship, innovation and job creation in the digital sector, possibilities to connect rural and urban markets, benefits for consumers, and new ways to overcome barriers to business development.

14. *Challenges*. Challenges for developing countries may include inadequate information and communications technology and industrial infrastructure and use; limited access to energy, unreliable and costly power supply; limited access to credit, lack of appropriate payment solutions; limited access to technology, lack of purchasing power and underdeveloped financial systems; concerns about job losses due to crowding out or automation; deteriorating trade balances; risk of market dominance by some firms; revenue losses; widening digital divides as the digital economy evolves; inadequate legal and regulatory frameworks; reliance on cash in society; and low levels of information and communications technology literacy, awareness and knowledge related to e-commerce among consumers, enterprises and Governments. Barriers can be particularly high for microenterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises.

15. More comprehensive assistance is needed in support of capacity-building aimed at overcoming challenges identified above. The eTrade for All initiative should have an important role to play in this regard.

16. The deliberations of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts will offer an opportunity to strengthen synergies between the consensus-building efforts, research and analysis and technical assistance of UNCTAD. The Intergovernmental Group of Experts will also serve to build a community of digital economy policymakers among developing and developed countries. Sharing of experience among policymakers and with other stakeholders will be central in this context. Discussions on the results of national information and communications technology policy reviews may provide valuable inputs.

Appendix

Topics and guiding questions for the first session

(i) What do developing countries need in order to build competitive advantages through e-commerce and the digital economy?

(ii) What can developing countries do in order to strengthen their physical and technology infrastructure?

(iii) How can developed countries partner with developing countries, in the most impactful way, to maximize opportunities and address challenges relating to e-commerce and the digital economy?

Annex IV

Terms of reference for the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Finance for Development

I. Background

1. As stated in subparagraphs 100 (r) and (s) of the Nairobi Maafikiano,[a] the Trade and Development Board will operationalize the creation of two new intergovernmental expert groups on financing for development and on e-commerce and the digital economy. The present terms of reference establish the modalities for the operationalization of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development.

II. Organizational considerations

2. **Composition**. The Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development will be composed of government representatives with relevant expertise. Specialized expertise from civil society, the private sector and academia will be invited, as appropriate, for consultative purposes, and will vary according to specific topics and themes. Member States may consider designating a focal point for continuous liaison with the Intergovernmental Group of Experts.

3. **Working modalities**. It is proposed that the Intergovernmental Group of Experts follow the standard procedures and methods of work for intergovernmental meetings at UNCTAD. At its first meeting, the Intergovernmental Group of Experts will decide on appropriate organizational and working modalities to maximize synergies between the intergovernmental machinery of UNCTAD and the follow-up process on financing for development in the United Nations system. By providing expert policy recommendations to the Trade and Development Board, the Intergovernmental Group of Experts will support UNCTAD in formulating contributions to the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development and the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up. In order to maximize the impact and participation of the group deliberations, arrangements shall be made for remote participation to complement the meeting.

4. **Frequency**. One plenary session per year.

5. **Length**. Not to exceed three days.

6. **Timing**. To ensure that the work of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development contributes meaningfully to UNCTAD input into the United Nations-wide financing for development follow-up process, sessions of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts should take place in the fourth quarter of each year. This allows for the outcomes of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts to be considered by the Trade and Development Board at its December or January session. Where possible, meetings should be convened back-to-back with other relevant meetings in order to create synergies for participating delegates.

7. **Outcomes**:

(a) Agreed policy recommendations drawn from the discussions of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development for the consideration of the Trade and Development Board;

[a] TD/519/Add.2 and Corr.1.

(b) A report produced under the responsibility of the Chair of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts, to inform discussions at the Trade and Development Board;

(c) Topics and guiding questions for subsequent sessions including provisional agenda, informed by the Inter-Agency Task Force report and guided by the deliberations of the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up.

8. **Reporting**. Reports to the Trade and Development Board.

9. **Lead division servicing the group of experts**. Division on Globalization and Development Strategies, in coordination with other relevant divisions of UNCTAD, overseen by the Office of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Trade and Development Board.

10. **Documentation**. Documentation for each session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts will consist of a provisional agenda, issues notes (a maximum of one per substantive agenda item) and a report of the session. Issues notes will be produced before each annual session, outlining the key issues to be examined by the experts and responding to the guiding questions (see appendix).

11. **Anticipated funding needs to enable participation**. To ensure the effective participation of government representatives from developing countries, especially from the least developed countries, funds for their travel and per diem expenses would be important. If the Intergovernmental Group of Experts takes a decision to carry out intersessional activities, it may be necessary to seek additional voluntary/extrabudgetary resources.

III. Proposed policy focus

12. The Nairobi Maafikiano specifies that the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development will address "financing for development, as reflected in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and within the work of UNCTAD" (subparagraph 100 (r)). It furthermore stipulates that UNCTAD should "contribute, through its three pillars of work, to the implementation, monitoring and review of the 2030 Agenda" (subparagraph 100 (a)) and "continue to contribute to the dedicated follow-up to and review of the International Conference on Financing for Development outcomes" (subparagraph 100 (i)).

13. The policy focus will be on core financial resource mobilization for sustainable development action areas in sections A–C, E and F of chapter II of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda,[b] within the UNCTAD mandate and limiting duplication.

14. The first meeting of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts shall address the guiding questions in the appendix below. In order to ensure UNCTAD contributes effectively to the follow-up process on financing for development, the selection of Intergovernmental Group of Experts topics for subsequent years will be guided by deliberations in the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up.

Appendix

Topics and guiding questions for the first session

The first meeting of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts will focus on the action areas of sections A and C (domestic public resources and international development cooperation, respectively) of chapter II of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda:

[b] See General Assembly resolution 69/313, annex.

(a) *Domestic public resources*

What can be done to enhance the mobilization of domestic public resources for development in developing countries?

(b) *International development cooperation*

How can international development cooperation maximize its contribution to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals?

Annex V

Topics for the first sessions of multi-year expert meetings

A. Multi-year Expert Meeting on Transport, Trade Logistics and Trade Facilitation

Relevant mandates

1. Nairobi Maafikiano. Paragraphs 10, 11 and 12 (of general relevance); subparagraphs 38 (j), (k), (p), (s), (x) and (z); subparagraphs 55 (b), (f)–(l), (x), (aa) and (gg); subparagraphs 76 (d), (e), (s) and (t); and subparagraphs 100 (d) and (t).

2. Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.* Sustainable Development Goal targets 1.5, 1.a, 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.10, 9.1, 9.a, 9.c, 10.b, 11.b, 13.1, 13,2, 13.3, 14.1, 14.2, 14.c, 16.3, 16.5, 16.6, 16.7, 16.10, 16.a, 16.b, 17.1–17.3, 17.8–17.11, 17.14, 17.16, 17.17 and 17.19.

3. Addis Ababa Action Agenda. Paragraphs 1, 4, 5, 8, 10, 11, 14, 17, 34, 48, 50–57, 59–62, 64–66, 68, 69, 74, 80, 87, 88, 90, 103, 113, 115 and 125–128.

Session for 2017: Trade facilitation and international transport

4. The 2017 session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Transport, Trade Logistics and Trade Facilitation will address the underlying linkages between, on the one hand, international transport and trade facilitation and, on the other hand, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals. The session will help set the tone and lay the groundwork for the subsequent three sessions of the multi-year expert meeting, which will consider in greater detail the specific implications of a new, universal and transformative trade and sustainability policy framework for the logistics of international trade.

Main issues for the session

5. Discussions will focus on trade facilitation and international transport, including ports, as well as maritime, multimodal and transit transport. The aim is to generate insight and guidance to help member States make informed decisions and adopt adequate policies that promote efficient transport systems, reduce transport and trade transaction costs, improve transit transport operations, facilitate trade transactions, enhance transport connectivity, enable a supportive legal framework, and promote trade and trade competitiveness. Experts will pay particular attention to the needs of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States, transit developing countries and structurally weak, vulnerable and small economies.

B. Multi-year Expert Meeting on Trade, Services and Development

Relevant mandates

6. Nairobi Maafikiano. Subparagraphs 55 (b), (c), (n), (o) and (cc); subparagraphs 76 (a), (s), (t) and (aa); subparagraphs 38 (c), (m), (s) and (z); subparagraph 55 (d); and subparagraph 100 (a).

7. Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Sustainable Development Goal 5 on gender equality (financial services), Goal 6 on water and sanitation (water services), Goal 7 on ensuring access to energy (energy services), Goal 8 on sustained

* A/RES/70/1.

growth (financial services), Goal 9 on building resilient infrastructure (e.g. financial, information and communications technology and telecommunication, transport services), Goal 10 on reducing inequality (remittances) and Goal 17 on revitalizing the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.

8. Addis Ababa Action Agenda. Paragraphs 12, 14, 24, 33, 34, 39, 40, 49, 80, 82 and 87.

Session for 2017: The role of the services economy and trade in structural transformation and inclusive development

9. The objective of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Trade, Services and Development continues to be providing enhanced understanding on the potential of the services economy and trade, particularly infrastructure services, for economic transformation, growth, poverty eradication and job creation, and on the multidimensional importance of these linkages as levers for achieving inclusive and sustainable development. It will aim at providing tools for participants to identify best-fit, coherent and comprehensive services policy, regulatory and institutional approaches and to engage in trade negotiations and international cooperation at the multilateral and regional levels, which enable the development potential of services. To pursue these objectives, the multi-year expert meeting provides a platform for multi-stakeholder dialogue and cooperation, and in particular for facilitating an exchange of views and lessons learned between policymakers, trade negotiators and regulators.

10. The importance of services for development is recognized in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This includes Sustainable Development Goal 1 on ending poverty (financial services), Goal 2 on ending hunger (financial services), Goal 3 on health (health services), Goal 4 on education (education services), Goal 5 on gender equality (financial services), Goal 6 on water and sanitation (water and sanitation services), Goal 7 on energy (energy services), Goal 8 on economic growth and employment (financial services), Goal 9 on infrastructure (infrastructure, financial, telecommunication and information and communications technology services), Goal 10 on reducing inequality (financial services and remittances), Goal 11 on human settlements (transport services), and Goal 17 on means of implementation (information and communications technology services, multilateral trading system and policy coherence). Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals is to a great extent a services agenda.

11. The Nairobi Maafikiano of UNCTAD confirms and orients the mandate to work on the linkages between the economy and trade in services, including infrastructure services and economic transformation and development. Relevant subparagraphs in the Nairobi Maafikiano include subparagraph 55 (n) on services, subparagraph 38 (z) on trade and services, subparagraph 55 (b) on trade, diversification, and upgrading in goods and services value chains, subparagraphs 38 (c) and 55 (cc) on financial services and remittances, subparagraph 38 (j) on transport services and subparagraph 55 (u) on telecommunications, information and communications technology services and the digital economy. This Multi-year Expert Meeting on Trade, Services and Development focuses on these linkages and builds on the outcome of previous multi-year expert meetings on services.

Main issues for the session

12. The role of the services economy and trade, particularly of infrastructure services, in leading structural transformation and the coherence of policy, regulatory and institutional frameworks that promote services productive and export capacity and are conducive of a resulting structural transformation, consistent with competitiveness, diversification and value chain participation and upgrading inclusive and sustainable development aspirations for 2017.

C. Multi-year Expert Meeting on Commodities and Development

Relevant mandates

13. Nairobi Maafikiano. Paragraphs 22, 30, 59, 82 (of general relevance); subparagraphs 38 (o), 55 (d), 76 (p) and 100 (h).

14. Addis Ababa Action Agenda. Paragraphs 108 and 116.

15. Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Sustainable Development Goal targets 2.c and 9.b.

16. The multi-year expert meetings will monitor the developments, challenges and opportunities in commodity markets, giving due attention to those commodity sectors that are relevant to commodity-dependent developing countries.

Session for 2017: Commodity dependence and the Sustainable Development Goals

17. Commodity dependence is narrowly associated with low levels of human development, as a recent UNCTAD study has shown; as a result, many commodity-dependent developing countries are characterized by high levels of poverty. Therefore, it is important to review and evaluate the contribution of the commodities sector to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals. In this context, the expert meeting will critically look at the issues that follow below.

Main issues for the session

18. Policy options that increase access to food and energy (Sustainable Development Goal targets 2.a, 2.b, 2.c, 7.1 and 7.b), foster value addition to commodities (target 9.b) and improve the management of natural resources through, inter alia, efficiency in resource use, while preserving the natural resource capital used to produce renewable resources (Sustainable Development Goals 12, 14 and 15).

D. Multi-year Expert Meeting on Investment, Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Productive Capacity-building and Sustainable Development

Relevant mandates

19. Nairobi Maafikiano. Paragraphs 42, 43, 51, 64 and 70 (of general relevance), subparagraph 55 (t) on harnessing science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals and subparagraphs 38 (v) and 55 (r), (q), (y) and (hh).

20. Other paragraphs of the Nairobi Maafikiano. Paragraphs 23 and 27; subparagraphs 38 (g), (p) and (q); paragraphs 40, 42, 43, 45, 49 and 51; subparagraphs 55 (p), (q), (r), (y) and (hh); paragraphs 58, 62, 63, 64, 68, 70, 71 and 74; subparagraphs 76 (h), (i), (n), (o), (u), (w), (bb) and (cc); paragraphs 83 and 96; and subparagraph 100 (a).

Session for 2017: International investment policies and sustainable development

21. The Multi-Year Expert Meeting on Investment, Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Productive Capacity-building and Sustainable Development will form a continuation of the pre-Nairobi, multi-year expert meetings on related issues by expanding the scope of the expert deliberation to the new topics of the Nairobi Mandate and applying the outcome tools of the previous multi-year expert meetings, namely the UNCTAD Investment Policy Framework for Sustainable Development, road map for reform of the international investment regime, Entrepreneurship Policy Framework and framework for science, technology and innovation policy, to these new topics.

Main issues for the session

22. Based on policy instruments previously developed by UNCTAD, in particular the Investment Policy Framework for Sustainable Development, road map for reform of the international investment regime and global action menu for investment facilitation, the meeting will share best practices and lessons learned, discuss initiatives and policy tools, and build a better understanding of issues surrounding the mobilization of investment for inclusive and sustainable development. Particular attention will be given to closing the systemic gap arising from the relative absence of facilitation and promotion measures in today's investment policy landscape and to issues related to international investment agreements and their sustainable development dimension. The legislative mandate is provided by subparagraphs 38 (l), 55 (q), 55 (r) and 55 (hh) of the Nairobi Maafikiano, as well as by paragraph 91 of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

23. The outcome of the multi-year expert meeting, the Chair's summary, will serve as an input to the policy deliberations of the ninth session of the Commission on Investment, Enterprise and Development that will be held in the latter part of 2017.

E. Multi-year Expert Meeting on Enhancing the Enabling Economic Environment at All Levels in Support of Inclusive and Sustainable Development, and the Promotion of Economic Integration and Cooperation

Relevant mandates

24. Nairobi Maafikiano. Subparagraphs 38 (a), 55 (c) and (h), and 100 (l).

25. Addis Ababa Action Agenda. Paragraph 88.

Session for 2017: Inclusive growth – towards a global agenda

26. The topic of the multi-year expert meeting in 2017 will be "Inclusive growth – towards a global agenda". It will, therefore, directly address the issue underscored in subparagraph 38 (a) of the Nairobi Maafikiano, which reads: "Continue to promote an enabling economic environment at all levels in support of inclusive and sustainable development, including by promoting multilateral solutions to common economic problems".

Main issues for the session

27. The multi-year expert meeting will link the issues of globalization, inequality and growth with the Sustainable Development Goals. Specifically, Goals 1, 8 and 10 define the inclusive growth agenda in the 2030 framework.

28. The multi-year expert meeting will, inter alia, address the following issues: (a) how technological changes are affecting the possibilities to attain inclusive growth in developing countries; (b) how global ation impacts fiscal policies that developing countries require to advance a more inclusive and sustainable development agenda; and (c) how globalization impacts inequality and efforts to achieve inclusive growth.

29. At the end of the session, the multi-year expert meeting will suggest a global policy approach to address these issues.

Annex VI

Agenda for the thirty-first special session of the Trade and Development Board

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session
2. Agenda of the sixty-fifth executive session of the Trade and Development Board
3. Agenda of the sixty-fourth session of the Trade and Development Board
4. Substantive topics for the forthcoming sessions of the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission and the Trade and Development Commission
5. Terms of reference for the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy and the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Finance for Development
6. Topics for the first sessions of multi-year expert meetings
7. Revised calendar of meetings
8. Adoption of the report of the Trade and Development Board

Annex VII

Provisional agenda of the sixty-fifth executive session of the Trade and Development Board

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
2. Activities undertaken by UNCTAD in support of Africa
3. Designation of non-governmental organizations for the purposes of rule 77 of the rules of procedure of the Trade and Development Board
4. Other business
5. Report of the Trade and Development Board on its sixty-fifth executive session

Annex VIII

Provisional agenda of the sixty-fourth session of the Trade and Development Board

1. Procedural matters:
   (a) Election of officers
   (b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session
   (c) Adoption of the report on credentials
   (d) Provisional agenda for the sixty-fifth session of the Trade and Development Board
2. High-level segment*
3. Interdependence: Inclusive growth – towards a global agenda
4. Development strategies in a globalized world
5. Contribution of UNCTAD to the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries**
   - Building productive capacities in the least developed countries and graduated least developed countries – lessons learned
6. Economic development in Africa: Tourism for transformative and inclusive growth
7. Evolution of the international trading system and its trends from a development perspective
8. Investment for development: Investment and the digital economy
9. Establishing development linkages in the extractive sector: Lessons from the field
10. Activities of UNCTAD in support of small island developing States and in support of landlocked developing countries
11. UNCTAD contributions to the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields
12. Technical cooperation activities:
    (a) Review of the technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD
    (b) Report on UNCTAD assistance to the Palestinian people
13. Matters requiring action by the Board in the follow-up to the fourteenth session of the Conference
14. Report of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget
15. Other matters in the field of trade and development:
    (a) Progressive development of the law of international trade: Fiftieth annual report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law
    (b) Report of the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre

* Title to be determined.

** In previous years, this has been the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020.

16. Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters:

    (a) Report by the Chair of the Advisory Body set up in accordance with paragraph 166 of the Bangkok Plan of Action on the implementation of courses by the secretariat in 2016–2017 and their relevant impact; and the appointment of members of the Advisory Body for 2018

    (b) Designation of intergovernmental bodies for the purposes of rule 76 of the rules of procedure of the Board

    (c) Designation of non-governmental organizations for the purposes of rule 77 of the rules of procedure of the Board

    (d) Review of the calendar of meetings

    (e) Membership of the Working Party for 2018

    (f) Review of the lists of States contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX)

    (g) Administrative and financial implications of the actions of the Board

17. Other business

18. Adoption of the report

Annex IX

Attendance*

1. Representatives of the following States members of the Trade and Development Board attended the session:

Algeria
Argentina
Austria
Bahamas
Bahrain
Barbados
Brazil
Bulgaria
Canada
Chad
Chile
China
Colombia
Congo
Cuba
Djibouti
Ecuador
Egypt
Finland
Gabon
Ghana
Greece
Guatemala
Haiti
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Ireland
Japan
Kazakhstan
Kenya
Kuwait
Kyrgyzstan
Latvia
Lesotho
Madagascar
Mexico
Oman
Philippines
Poland
Serbia
Sudan
Switzerland
Thailand
Togo
Tunisia
Uganda
United Arab Emirates
United Republic of Tanzania
Viet Nam
Zambia

2. Representatives of the following non-member observer State attended the session:

State of Palestine

3. The following intergovernmental organization was represented at the session:

Organization of Islamic Cooperation

* For the list of participants, see TD/B(S-XXXI)/INF.1.